Dear Parents,

At Mornington Primary School we take great pride in offering a wide range of challenging and exciting educational opportunities for all our students. This will continue in 2016 and beyond. Significant school resources, both human and financial, are allocated each year towards the provision of these programs.

School Council sets the level of parent payments and voluntary contributions on an annual basis and each year a substantial conversation takes place regarding this. If you average out the educational expenses over the year – excluding uniforms, you get a figure of approximately $10 per week – less for some year levels. This figure includes stationery, consumables, excursions, camps and an excellent education. Of course there may be other expenses, such as student notebook program, RACV Energy Breakthrough or instrumental program – classified as ‘optional extras’ and based on parent choice.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) has outlined three categories of parent payments that may be applied in Government schools. In summary, school councils can request payments from parents for student materials and services charges, and for voluntary financial contributions. These payments fall into three categories:

1. **Essential education items** which parents and guardians are required to provide or pay the school to provide for their child (e.g. stationery, text books, consumables, school uniforms, camps, excursions, swimming, interschool sport etc)

2. **Optional extras** which are offered on a user-pays basis and which parents and guardians may choose whether their child accesses or participates in (e.g. RACV, extra-curricular programs or activities, school-based performances, instrumental tuition, school magazines, student leadership, band, choir, Grade 6 Graduation, notebook program etc.)

3. **Voluntary financial contributions** which parents and guardians are invited to donate to the school (e.g. grounds maintenance & development, additional technology).

School Council has developed a ‘Parent Payments Policy’ and endorsed the parent payments for 2016, as outlined on the attached information. This is available on the school website [www.morningtonps.vic.edu.au](http://www.morningtonps.vic.edu.au)

**Considerations for Parent Payments in 2016**

We are well aware of the financial impact of school payments on families. Therefore, costs have been maintained to a minimum and are similar to 2015.

Whilst the cost of camps and excursions has continued to increase, we have over the years, reduced the duration of camps from 5-day to 3-day camps in an effort to keep cost at an affordable level. A further reduction in the duration of camps would significantly diminish the experience for the students. With the introduction of the **Camps and Excursions Fund** by DET, available to eligible families, some support is available to families. Please ask the school office about this fund.

Parents are encouraged to contact the school regarding any difficulty with payment for any of these items.

**School Payments Methods**

We endeavour to provide ample time for payments to be made; in particular, for camps and swimming where the costs are greater. To assist parents in planning and managing school payments, BPay and Direct Debit options are available, as well as eftpos and over-the-counter payments at the office. Parents can ‘schedule’ regular payments to ‘family’ accounts and utilize these for any school payments with parents’ consent.

For further information regarding school payments, please contact the school office.

Silvio Vitale
Principal

Stephen Baker
School Council President
### Schedule 1: Parent Payment Schedule for 2016

#### Sect A – Parent-funded Essential Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Stationery/Books</td>
<td>$50 - $80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consumables:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Consumable Class Materials:</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom printing, photocopying, consumables for units of inquiry, Maths &amp; English activities, coloured paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Enrichment materials:</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment and supplies for Visual Arts, Phys. Ed Performing Arts, library, ICT &amp; Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mathletics &amp; Reading Eggs/Express:</td>
<td>$22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual subscription for on-line homework programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$152</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Payable as required:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming &amp; water safety</td>
<td>$35 - $55 (Approximately)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Prep – Year 6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camps</td>
<td>$220 - $280 (Approximately)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Years 3 – 6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Excursions:**

- Curriculum Excursions/Incursions                       | $30 - $80 |
- House Athletics (Grades 3 – 6 only)                     | $30    |
- Interschool Sports (Grade 5/6 only)                     | $50   |

**Uniform:** (as required)

### Sect B – Optional Extras (Parent Funded Extras & Special programs):

(Payment for these programs is to be requested as required)

- 1:1 Notebook
- Grade 6 Graduation
- Student Leadership
- RACV Energy Breakthrough
- School Production
- Choir
- Band
- Instrumental Music
- District/Zone Selection
- Special Religious Instruction

### Sect C – Voluntary Contributions (per family)

- Grounds Maintenance $50
- Technology $50

**Endorsed by School Council**

**November, 2015**